### SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT ON AMENDMENT 18B SNAPPER GROUPER COMMITTEE SAVANNAH, GA 2012

- About a dozen comments during hearings from Key Largo to New Bern.
- Received 6 written comments during comment period from Jan 13 to Feb 15.

#### **Specific Comments**

- Most fishermen supported the proposed endorsement program.
- Request that the Council to put all effort possible to increase the ACL by July 1, 2012. Or, talk with industry and try to come up with the right date.
- Fishermen need to agree on how to manage the fishery by themselves and it can work without catch shares.
- Recommendation that staff call all participants in the fishery and get their collective thoughts and present them to the Council.
- The Council should have an Economic and Marketing Advisory Panel that should be involved in Council decisions.
- Council should consider taking the corporate boats out. At least 2 new boats in the fishery that are corporate boats. They are leaving gear out and killing fish that don't make it to the market.
- No further changes to golden tilefish unless a bigger share goes to the rec sector. Need to increase the bag limit and the rec allocation. Currently, rec fishermen cannot target these fish.
- Against transferrable endorsements for golden tilefish but did not state why.
- Adjustment in ACL for golden tilefish should be put in place this
  year for the entire amount of the increase. However, next fishing
  year, longliners would like to have the majority of the quota
  available to them in the first 4 months of the year, when shallow
  water grouper fishing is closed.
- Closure of Oculina Bank into muddy area has contributed to movement of golden tilefish.

- Endorsements were applicable under the old quota but the Council should consider including more boats since the new quota will go up.
- Recreational tag system would be good for tilefish.
- Hook and line consider increasing participation and allow a rollover for hook and line fishermen, at least a 50% rollover, since they may not be able to catch the entire ACL.
- The way the fishery is currently managed makes it unprofitable because derby conditions cause depressed prices.
- New boats have come into the fishery in just the last two years. The amount of fish hitting the market has reduced prices.
- Rock shrimpers sometimes trawl in golden tilefish grounds and scatter the fish. There needs to be some kind of limit on the depth that the rock shrimp vessels can operate so they do not destroy the tilefish grounds.
- Four-month spawning season closure has affected restaurants.
   Need the tilefish during the early part of the year when no grouper are available. GT quota is being filled so quickly that there is no decent, local fresh fish to offer to guests during the busiest season and during Lent. Consider extending the length of the fishing season by closing for a week and open for a week, etc.
- Council should consider allowing more recent entrants into the fishery with the increase in the ACL
- Consider revising the allocation for golden tilefish. Existing allocations have been in place for a long time and do not represent the fishery of today.
- Consider regional management for the fishery to alleviate disparity in effort depending on the time of year between FL and Carolinas.
- SAFA not in favor of endorsements. They think there is a better way through a voluntary IFQ program that would reduce the number of people eliminated from the fishery through the proposed endorsement program. We just feel it is a better way and we are hoping that
- There is no reason for an endorsement in the fishery since the ACL will increase.
- With the possibility of an increased ACL, current participants should be allowed to remain in the fishery. Landings from 2011 should be included.

- Council should consider reducing effort through means other than an endorsement program such as lower trip limits, fishing 10 days at the beginning of every month or fishing odd and even weeks based on permit number
- The Council should consider underutilization of a resource as much as overutilization. Golden tilefish should be responsibly harvested at maximum sustainable yield taking market conditions into account.
- Directed Sustainable Fisheries supports the endorsement program as proposed and request that the Council not consider a catch-share program for this fishery
- DSF suggests not trip limit for hook and line fishermen who receive an endorsement

## CONGRESSMAN BILL POSEY (FL-15) STATEMENT

## Golden tilefish, spiny lobster, golden crab FEDERAL FISHERIES PUBLIC HEARING January 31, 2012

On behalf of the thousands of commercial and recreational fishermen in my district and across the state, I voice my strong opposition to further proposed limits to the golden tilefish and broad area closures and gear markings for the commercial spiny lobster fishery and a catch share program for the harvest of golden crab <u>unless they are requested</u>, <u>developed</u>, <u>modified or agreed to by the fishing industry</u> working in conjunction with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

These measures will impact both commercial and recreational fishermen who fish in federal waters between 3 and 200 miles offshore ranging from North Carolina to the Florida Keys. It is critical that we work together to create the right kind of balance for golden tilefish, spiny lobster fisheries and golden crab.

The current process often fails to consider the unintended consequences resulting in a disastrous impact on many individuals and businesses, such as those commercial and recreational fishermen who may be put out of business.

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council needs to take into account the socioeconomic impact of regulations on fishermen and fishing communities as stipulated in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This provision of the law has been all but ignored in recent federal rulemaking processes.

Florida, one of the states hit hardest by the current economic downturn, depends heavily on the fishing and tourism industries to provide employment for our residents and to generate tax dollars for the state. In fact, in Florida alone, the saltwater fishing industry contributes more than \$5 billion a year of economic output, resulting in nearly \$380 million in federal tax revenues per year.

Last year's oil spill in the Gulf negatively impacted the lives of those in Florida who depend on the ocean for their livelihood. Further needless limitations on those same Florida fishermen will further harm our economy.

We must continue to secure accurate information on the health and status of these federally managed species. The Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service needs to move toward "Cooperative Management" by working with the fishing industry to conduct economic impact assessments for the communities affected by further proposed restrictions. Putting fishermen in the unemployment line based on faulty or incomplete science is simply wrong.

These fisheries directly employ several thousand specialized workers with many locally based jobs and businesses that depend on these important fishing industries. Many in our community are struggling to keep their doors open, and it is important that any decisions that adversely affect jobs are made based on sound reasons and the best science.

It is important to conserve fish species for the future, but we can and must do so in such a way that also preserves the fishing industry and economic livelihood of many thousands of Floridians.

A better line of communication between Federal officials at NOAA and the communities who are suffering is critical in solving this problem. There has been a lack of attention on the part of the Federal government to ensure that they are using solid science, which is a major point of contention. Also, there seems to be a real disconnect and I don't think Federal officials truly understand how devastating their decisions have been to local fisherman, their families and our economy in general. Hopefully we can work together to reach agreements that satisfy everyone's concerns but as of right now the current state of management is unacceptable.

I ask that the Council listen to the views and input from the affected communities and individuals. Take those into consideration and work with them to implement wiser policies.

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Public Comments for the January 26, 2012 SAFMC Hearing and Scoping Meeting

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My name is Chris McCaffity. I am a commercial fisherman who has been offering common sense solutions that would mitigate many of the severe negative impacts associated with federal fishery laws that violate NEPA and the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Please consider these comments with an open heart and mind.

Amendment 18B is designed to take the vast majority of permit holder's freedom to participate in a fishery that is covered by our federal snapper/grouper permits. The SAFMC seems to be trying to create small groups of permit holders in specific fisheries that will be willing to embrace a catch share scheme that benefits them to the detriment of their fellow fishermen and our freedom. I oppose endorsements in the Golden Tilefish fishery or any other fishery. I support modifying the trip limits. The quota should be split into 6 month seasons. The trip limits should be set at 1,000 pounds until approximately 75% of the seasonal quota has been caught. The trip limit should then be adjusted to a level that fills the quota without any long closure.

Any area closures in Amendment 11 should be offset with equal areas of new Artificial Reefs.

The Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 3 has the potential to really help the fish, fishermen, and consumers. Unfortunately, the council has once again come up with a plan that will waste our resources, restrict our access to American seafood, and take away a little more of our God-given freedom. Why would divers not be allowed to use powerhead gear to kill the fish quickly? Why would you force them to use less effective gear that allows some wounded fish to escape? I am OPPOSED to the Precautionary Principal power grab associated with the expansion of deepwater coral habitat areas of concern. I am equally OPPOSED to the Precautionary Principal power grab associated with the establishment of mid-shelf Marine Protected Areas. Any MPAs should be limited to small key areas and be offset with equal areas of new Artificial Reefs. I OPPOSE the Florida Keys MPA. I OPPOSE a minimum size limit for Hogfish and Trigger Fish. I support modifications to commercial and for-hire reporting requirements. The landings data should be available to the public without identifying individual fishermen. The data should be used to MANAGE possession limits so our fisheries remain open. Permit holders should have final approval of any new Amendments with a 2/3 majority vote.

We should be looking at ways to enhance our resources rather than restricting access to them. We should be looking at ways to feed more people rather than trying to create more waste. We should be looking at ways to advance liberty rather than writing new laws that restrict it. We should be showing other fishery managers by example how they can manage their fisheries in ways that rebuild stocks without destroying jobs or the proud heritage that goes with them. We should be practicing the Golden Rule in fishery management and all that we do.

I would like to use the rest of my time to explain why Endorsements and Catch Shares will increase the amount of Regulatory Discards in our fisheries. Endorsements will allow a few permit holders who overfished the most to harvest the majority of our quotas and leave our fisheries shut down for long periods of time which creates even more Regulatory Discards. Endorsements for specific gear types would not be so bad if a targeted fishery was shut down when approximately 75% of the quota has been harvested and the Trip Poundage Limit was set at a level that would fill the quota without having to close the fishery early. Having the fishery open all year would give consumer's access to seafood that would have been discarded dead or alive if the fishery were shut down. Endorsements should never exclude any permit holder in the effected fishery from targeting an Endorsement Species with hook-and-line gear during the open season. By-Catch Allowances for permit holders without endorsements would allow fishermen to keep any endorsement species we accidentally catch while targeting other fish.

Catch Shares have many unintended and intended consequences that cause some severe negative impacts. They create targeted fisheries in multi-species fisheries and cause fishermen to have to throw away all of the fish they do not have any shares for. Catch Shares reward the permit holders who overfished the most. Catch Shares have a well documented history of consolidating fisheries down into the hands of a few big corporations. Catch Shares are not so much a management tool as they are an allocation tool. Catch Shares will create many more Regulatory Discards than they might prevent. Catch Shares waste fish and destroy jobs.

You could achieve all of the honorable goals of Catch Shares and Endorsements by simply MANAGING the quotas with Split Seasons and Trip Poundage Limits (TPLs) that are adjusted to levels that fill the quotas without any long closures at a predetermined time or after a set amount of a quota has been caught. Any overages should be deducted from the next seasonal quota and any leftover quota should carry over to the next season. Fishermen could target fish with high TPLs while still keeping the fish with reduced TPLs that we accidentally catch. This would give consumers access to a dependable supply of local seafood and allow fishermen to work all year without having to discard tons of dead and dying fish.

Why is it so hard for our fishery "managers" to manage the reduced quotas? Why do our fishery "managers" seem to feel absolved of any responsibility when the laws they pass compromise our safety and even KILL fishermen? Why are we discarding tons of perfectly edible fish in the name of conservation even though the "managers" know that many of those discarded fish will slowly die and go to waste? The fishery "managers" allocate as much as 100% of a quota to dead discards. Why are we wasting all of this food when there are so many hungry people? We should be looking at ways to limit waste and enhance our resources rather than always looking for new ways to mandate waste and limit our freedom to access our public resources.

Artificial Reefs are the perfect union of Aquaculture and commercially or recreationally harvested fish. They greatly increase the total bio-mass an area can support by increasing the amount of food and shelter available. We could feed many more people than we do now and also help other things like turtles and corals at the same time. Artificial Reefs can be very cheap and effective if they are made and used properly. This would benefit everyone with no negative impact on anything.

I once again challenge Environmental Defense, Oceana, South Atlantic Fishermen's Ass., and all SAFMC members to a public debate about how we should manage our fisheries. Please contact me if anyone is willing to have an open and honest debate. <a href="freefish7@hotmail.com">freefish7@hotmail.com</a> Thank you.

#### CHADWICK S. ENGLERT

168 HARRIS DRIVE SEBASTIAN, FL 32958 561.596.0821 CSENGLERT@YAHOO.COM

#### December 12, 2011

#### SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Mr. John V. O'Shea (voshea@asmfc.org)

Ms. Deirdre Warner-Kramer (warner-kramerdm@state.gov)

RE: Snapper Grouper - Amendment 18B - Golden Tilefish

#### **Dear Council Members:**

It has come to my attention that the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (SAFMC) has decided that future participation in the long line sector of the golden tilefish fishery will be determined by past landings. It has been decided that they will look at 2008, 2009 and 2010. During those three years you must have 30,000 pounds in total landings.

I have the right to remain in this fishery. I entered the fishery in 2011 and I am the owner *and* operator of the *F/V Die Trying* (Vessel Number 559583). I am also the owner of all of the permits used onboard this vessel. I have invested a large amount of money in the required South Atlantic snapper-grouper unlimited permit. I have also spent a significant amount of money on the required gear for this fishery. There is no reason that the SAFMC cannot look at the last two years (2010 and 2011) of landings in lieu of the last three. You should be considered an *active participant* of the fishery if you have landings in either 2010 or 2011, regardless of the number of pounds landed. There are other less restrictive alternatives that the SAFMC can implement. For example, rather than limit participation in the fishery, the SAFMC could reduce trip limits. This would accomplish the same goal of extending the season.

The SAFMC has made a decision which favors corporate boats rather than individuals who own their respective vessels. It is not reasonable to allow corporate boats to continue in the fishery and at the same time to preclude owner operators from making a living. It stands to reason that you are an *active and participating* fisherman if you have landings in the past *two* years. I am an *active and participating fisherman*. I own and operate my vessel on a daily basis. I fish using my own permits. Boats such as *King Seafood* and *Wild Ocean* are corporate boats. The permit holders of those corporate boats are never onboard. They *do not actively participate* in the fishery. The SAFMC will be punishing individual owners if allowed to continue this way. As an alternative, the SAFMC could require that the permit holder must be onboard at least a certain percent of the time that the vessel is actively working the fishery.

Our country is already suffering from extremely difficult economic times. Individuals and business owners are suffering economic hardships at record rates. It begs the question, *Why put more hard working Americans out of business?* The SAFMC can help ensure jobs. The SAFMC can help have a positive impact on our economy and on the future of this long line fishery by using the last two years (2010 and 2011) in its decision making process. I am asking that the SAFMC look at and apply less restrictive alternatives in making its decision.

At twenty nine years old, I am one of the younger fishermen. With that said, I have worked countless hours to get where I am as a commercial fisherman. I know what it takes to "make it" in this industry. I have proven that I am willing to put in the effort. I look forward to fishing every day. I know how fortunate I am that I have a career that I love. I look forward to fishing for many decades to come. I hope to one day be a part of the Council that makes these decisions. I see my future in this industry. I am recently married and want nothing more than to provide a good life for my wife and hopefully a family one day. I hope and pray that you do not take this away from me.

In advance, thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

CHADWICK S. ENGLERT

cc:

Via Electronic Mail

Mr. Robert Mahood (robert.mahood@safmc.net)

Mr. Gregg Waugh (Gregg.waugh@safmc.net)

Ms. Kim Iverson (kim.iverson@safmc.net)

# Re: Snapper Grouper Amendment 18B Public Hearing Comment

With the possibility of an increased quota, I feel strongly that current participants should be allowed to remain in the golden tilefish fishery. Landings from 2011 and or 2012 should be included in the decision document. There should also be provisions for historical captains to remain in the fishery. Eliminating participants will not reduce efforteffort could be reduced by measures such as lower trip limits, fishing ten days at the beginning of the month, or fishing odd and even weeks based on your permit numbers.

Council should be just as concerned about under fishing a species as overfishing one. There is a significant management buffer for golden tilefish. This resource should be responsibly harvested at the maximum yield, taking market conditions into consideration.

Sherylanne T. McCoy Cape Canaveral Shrimp Company Inc. 715 N. Tropical Trail Merritt Island, Fl. 32953

05/18/2008 00:55 FAX 🖾 001/007

----Original Message-----

From: Katie < katiesteed@aol.com>

To: Robert.Mahood < robert.mahood@safmc.net >

Sent: Wed, Dec 14, 2011 9:09 pm Subject: Tile fish qualifying options

Dear Mr. Mahood,

I am writing to let you know that under the current proposed tilefish permit qualifying option I will be excluded from a fishery that I have participated in beginning as early as 1983.

I have been a Commercial Fisherman **exclusively** since 1981 and have come to rely on tilefish for a substantial part of my annual income.

I own and operate my own vessel and in the 2010/2011 fishing seasons caught 32,000 lbs of tilefish at an average price of \$3.00 per lb . I have invested \$14,000.00 in tile fish gear and have one employee who will not be needed without the benefit of this permit .

Loosing my tile fish permit would be a disastrous outcome for me and my family as well as that of my first mate and his family.

Due to fisheries regulation I have had to become a multi-species fisherman in order to meet my financial obligations .

I was given to understand that I would qualify for a tile fish permit under the 2006/2007 preferred qualifying option therefore I did not feel it was necessary to attend the appropriate meetings in this matter

It has come to my attention recently that the option for qualifying for this permit has been or is being reconsidered . Under the new terms explained to me I will no longer be eligible.

Apparently the terms of qualification have been proposed to change so that 1 corporate vessel can qualify . (I am strongly opposed to this line of thinking and will discuss this matter as a separate issue in the near future).

May I strongly suggest that you stay with the original proposed preferred option or include 2011 tile fish landings in your permit qualifications option .

I have worked hard all of my life to acquire the necessary permits to sustain my family and my business - it would be a darn shame to lose this permit and render useless all the gear I've invested in .

Your attention in this matter would be so greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, David Steed

Hm 772 778-5336 Cell 772 696-1386 email <u>katiesteed@aol.com</u>

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Bob Mahood, Executive Director South Atlantic Fishery Management Council 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201 North Charleston, SC 29405

SGAmend18BPHcomment@safmc.net

Wednesday February 15, 2012

Re: Snapper Grouper Amendment 18B Golden Tilefish public hearing comment

To: Bob Mahood,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a written comment about the Snapper Grouper (SG) Amendment 18B for Golden Tilefish. A lot of work has already occurred with regard to the preferred actions found in the current version Amendment 18B. The main goal of Directed Sustainable Fisheries (DSF) has been to keep active fishermen fishing. We had thought we were getting close to that goal. Unfortunately two new issues have recently developed and I will summarize those concerns now before commenting on the dozen actions being proposed.

First, after participating through the SouthEast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR 25) process since early 2011, we have just recently learned about the final results that now will help to establish the annual catch limits (ACL) for 2012 and beyond. It appears that the current ACL can virtually be doubled from 282,819 pounds gutted weight and that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is currently developing a framework decision document to fast track the 2012 ACL increase that should result in a reopening of the Golden Tilefish possibly by July 01, 2012, if approved during March 2012 at the SAFMC meeting in Savannah, Georgia.

Second, since the information was made available about the Golden Tilefish acceptable biological catch (ABC) increase, and the very high overfishing limit (OFL) that creates a huge management buffer, a momentum in conversation has taken place recently to have the SAFMC and NMFS push for a "Catch Share" program during the March 2012 meeting in Savannah, Georgia. I have been told that such an alternative could be developed as an action within the Amendment 18B proposals. This could become onerous as once again active fishermen may become financially compromised by becoming saddled with a small allocation, as opposed to the endorsement program that is currently the lead choice for a proposed action to keep active fishermen involved. With the current ACL increase the SAFMC members should choose to lower some of the qualifiers to keep some more active Golden Tilefish fishermen fishing.

Below are the DSF suggested alternatives to each action. Perhaps the qualifying criteria debate at the SAFMC March 2012 meeting might allow some more active fishermen to continue to participate after Amendment 18B becomes final. Alternative changes could include the 2011 and/or 2012 landings be used in the decision document.

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#### Proposed Actions in Amendment 18B

#### 1. Limit Participation in the Golden Tilefish Portion of the Snapper Grouper Fishery

**Alternative 2.** Limit golden tilefish effort through a golden tilefish gear endorsement program: Distribute golden tilefish gear specific endorsements for snapper grouper permit holders that qualify under the eligibility requirements stated below. Only snapper grouper permit holders with a golden tilefish longline endorsement or a golden tilefish hook and line endorsement associated with their snapper grouper permit will be allowed to possess golden tilefish.

#### Sub-alternative 2a (Preferred).

Individuals that meet the qualifying criteria for both hook and line and longline endorsements may receive both endorsements.

#### 2. Establish Initial Eligibility Requirements for a Golden Tilefish Hook and Line Endorsement

**Alternative 2.** Establish initial eligibility requirements for a golden tilefish hook and line endorsement based on the following criteria:

**Sub-alternative 2d (Preferred).** To receive a golden tilefish hook and line endorsement, the individual must have a harvest level of 500 pounds gw (with hook and line gear) when the best 3 of 6 years from 2005-2010 are aggregated.

#### 3. Establish Initial Eligibility Requirements for a Golden Tilefish Longline Endorsement

**Alternative 2.** Establish initial eligibility requirements for a golden tilefish longline endorsement based on the following criteria:

**Sub-alternative 2f (Preferred).** To receive a golden tilefish longline endorsement, the individual must have an average of 10,000 pounds gw golden tilefish caught (with longline gear) for the best 3 years within the period 2006 through 2010.

#### 4. Establish an Appeals Process

Alternative 2 (Preferred). A period of 90 days will be set aside to accept appeals to the golden tilefish endorsement program starting on the effective date of the final rule. The Regional Administrator (RA) will review, evaluate, and render final decisions on appeals. Hardship arguments will not be considered. The RA will determine the outcome of appeals based on NMFS' logbooks. If NMFS' logbooks are not available, the RA may use state landings records. Appellants must submit NMFS' logbooks or state landings records to support their appeal.

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#### 5. Allocate Commercial Golden Tilefish Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Among Gear Groups

**Alternative 2 (Preferred).** Allocate the golden tilefish commercial ACL as follows: 75% to the longline sector and 25% to the hook and line sector (currently would be 212,114 pounds gw to longlines and 70,705 pounds gw to hook and line).

NOTE: The values stated above would change based on adjustment to the ACL under **Action 11**.

Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel (AP): Support Alternative 4.

Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC): The SSC recommends the Council consider developing a decision tree to specify methodology for making sector allocation decisions. Council should consider how they might want to adjust these allocations over time.

#### 6. Allow for Transferability of Golden Tilefish Endorsements

**Alternative 2 (Preferred).** A valid or expired longline golden tilefish endorsement can be transferred between any two individuals or entities that hold, or simultaneously obtain, a valid or renewable unlimited Federal commercial snapper grouper permit.

#### Sub-alternative 2a (Preferred).

Transferability allowed upon program implementation.

**Alternative 3 (Preferred).** A valid or expired hook and line golden tilefish endorsement can be transferred between any two individuals or entities that hold, or simultaneously obtain, a valid or renewable unlimited Federal commercial snapper grouper permit.

#### **Sub-alternative 3a (Preferred).**

Transferability allowed upon program implementation.

#### 7. Adjust the Golden Tilefish Fishing Year

Alternative 1 (No Action)(Preferred). Retain the existing calendar year as the golden tilefish fishing year (January 1 through December 31).

#### 8. Modify the Golden Tilefish Trip Limit

**Alternative 2 (Preferred).** Remove the 300 pound gutted weight trip limit when 75% of the ACL is taken.

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9. Establish Trip Limits for Fishermen Who Do Not Receive a Golden Tilefish Hook and line Endorsement

**Alternative 6 (Preferred).** Establish trip limits of 200 pounds gw for the golden tilefish hook and line fishery for commercial fishermen who do not receive an endorsement in the commercial golden tilefish hook and line fishery. Vessels with longline endorsements are not eligible to fish this trip limit.

10. Establish Trip Limits for Fishermen Who Receive a Golden Tilefish Hook and line Endorsement

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Do not establish trip limits for fishermen who receive hook and line endorsements in the golden tilefish fishery.

Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel (AP): Support Alternative 1 (No Action).

11. Revise Annual Catch Limit (ACL) and Optimum Yield (OY) for Golden Tilefish

ACL = 75%Fmsy = 625,000 pounds ww (558,036 pounds gw)

The ACL level is chosen by the Council. The Council will consider the alternatives at their March 2012 meeting. As mentioned previously, action will likely be taken via a framework amendment at that meeting (which will be much quicker than if the action remained in this amendment) and a new (increased) ACL will likely be in place sometime this year.

12. Revise the Accountability Measures

**Sub-alternative 5b (Preferred).** The Regional Administrator shall publish a notice to close the recreational sector when the ACL is projected to be met.

**Alternative 6.** Specify the recreational post-season AM.

**Sub-alternative 6a (Preferred).** Monitor following year and shorten season as necessary. If the ACL is exceeded, the following year's recreational landings would be monitored in-season for persistence in increased landings. The Regional Administrator will publish a notice to reduce the length of the recreational fishing season as necessary.

Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC): The SSC recommends that the Council look at the different catch level reference points (OFL, ABC, ACL, and ACT) as part of an integrated system, so that we can get a better handle on how these management tools interact. For example, setting ACL=ABC could work if you have a properly set ACT

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that triggers management actions before overages occur. Not setting an ACT (with management triggers properly set up) calls for ABC < ACL.

# Rusty

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Saltwater Fisheries Consultant

**Shark Specialist** 

Deep-Sea Fisherman and Shrimp Boat Captain

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Retired 100-ton United States Coast Guard (USCG) Licensed Sea Captain

Seafood Coalition (SFC) member

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Advisory Panel (AP) commercial member

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Coastal Shark (CS) AP Florida (FL) commercial & for-hire recreational member

Former South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) Marine Protected Area (MPA) AP FL commercial member

Former NMFS Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team FL member (ALWTRT)

Former NMFS Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team FL member (BDTRT)

Current American Elasmobranch Society (AES) member

Participant, observer and/or contributor to US coastal shark stock assessments during 1992, 1996, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2011

SouthEast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) 11 large coastal sharks (LCS), SEDAR 13 small coastal sharks (SCS), SEDAR 16 King mackerel (KM), SEDAR 19 Red grouper & Black grouper (RG/BG), SEDAR 21 (LCS/SCS), SEDAR 24 Red snapper (RS), SEDAR 25 Black sea bass & Golden tilefish (BSB/GT), SEDAR 28 Spanish mackerel & Cobia